



Chairman Julius Genachowski
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20554

August 10, 2011

Dear Chairman Genachowski:

I'm pleased to have this chance to comment on the merger between AT&T and T-Mobile USA, which I believe will be tremendously beneficial to the entire Kalamazoo region.

The Kalamazoo Regional Chamber of Commerce serves as the voice for businesses on issues affecting businesses and the Kalamazoo community. Together with our members, we focus on enhancing the local economic climate. At our chamber, we strive to help businesses of all sizes grow and achieve; our members include many small businesses as well as multi-national corporations. Healthy economic growth benefits us all and brings new opportunities to our area.

One of the most essential tools for 21st century business success is access to high-speed wireless broadband. Mobile broadband allows businesses to compete in global markets, attract new customers, and offer online sales and services. This technology encourages innovation, growth, and new jobs in every field, and chambers of commerce across the country use wireless broadband to better assess and respond to the needs of member businesses.

However, many communities in our area are currently underserved in this regard. In order to gain access to the next generation of high-speed mobile broadband, there must be a robust wireless network infrastructure in place to support it.

That's where this merger comes in. AT&T is committing to spending billions across the country to invest in expanded wireless infrastructure, and that includes communities of all sizes across Michigan. The result will be accelerated deployment of expanded access to ultra-fast wireless broadband for our community, our people, and our businesses, and it will all happen through private investment.

This merger will bring new possibilities and opportunities to our community and to our businesses, and I hope you will support it. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steward Sandstrom".

Steward Sandstrom
Kalamazoo Regional Chamber of Commerce

CC:
Commissioner Michael Copps
Commissioner Robert McDowell
Commissioner Mignon Clyburn

